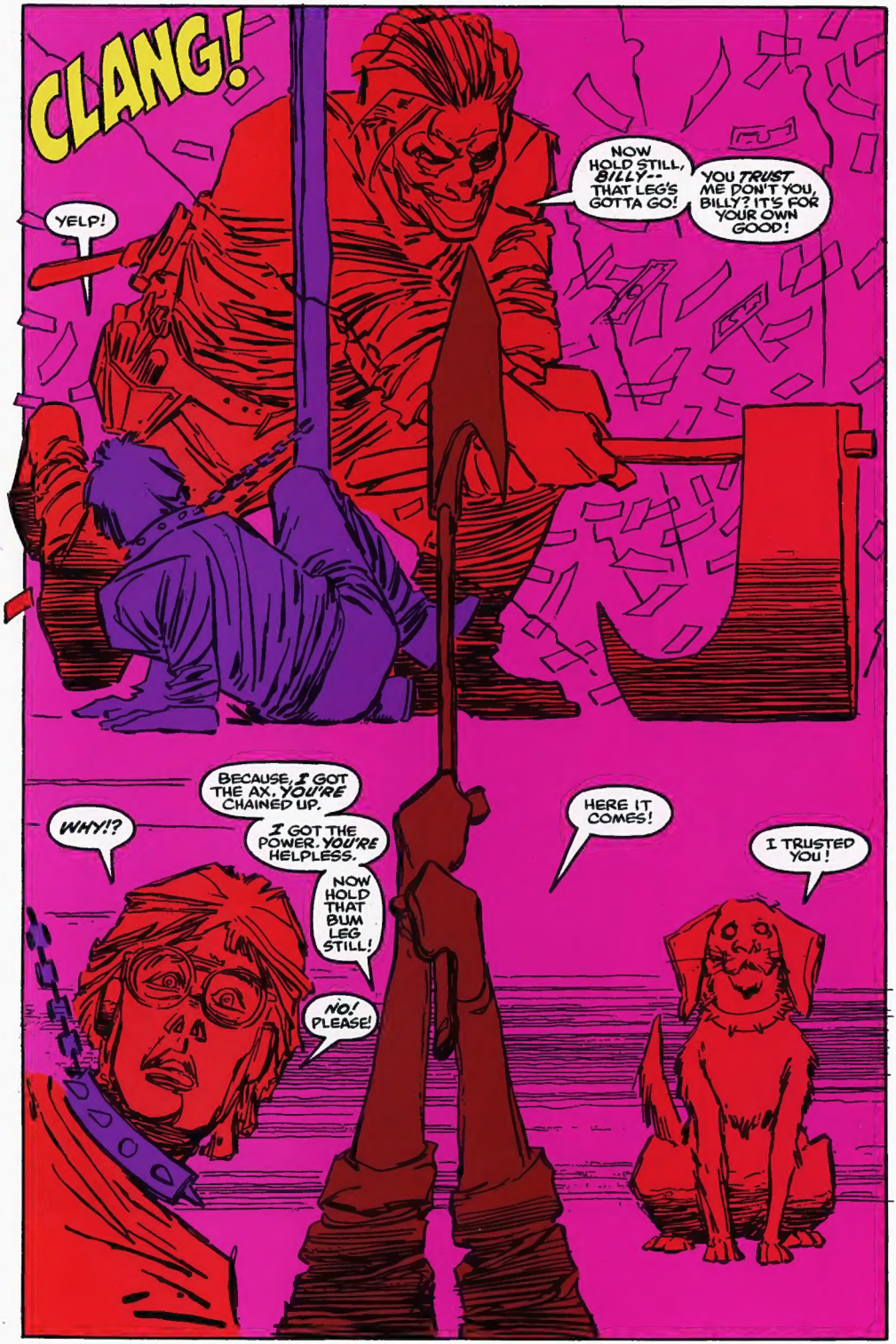
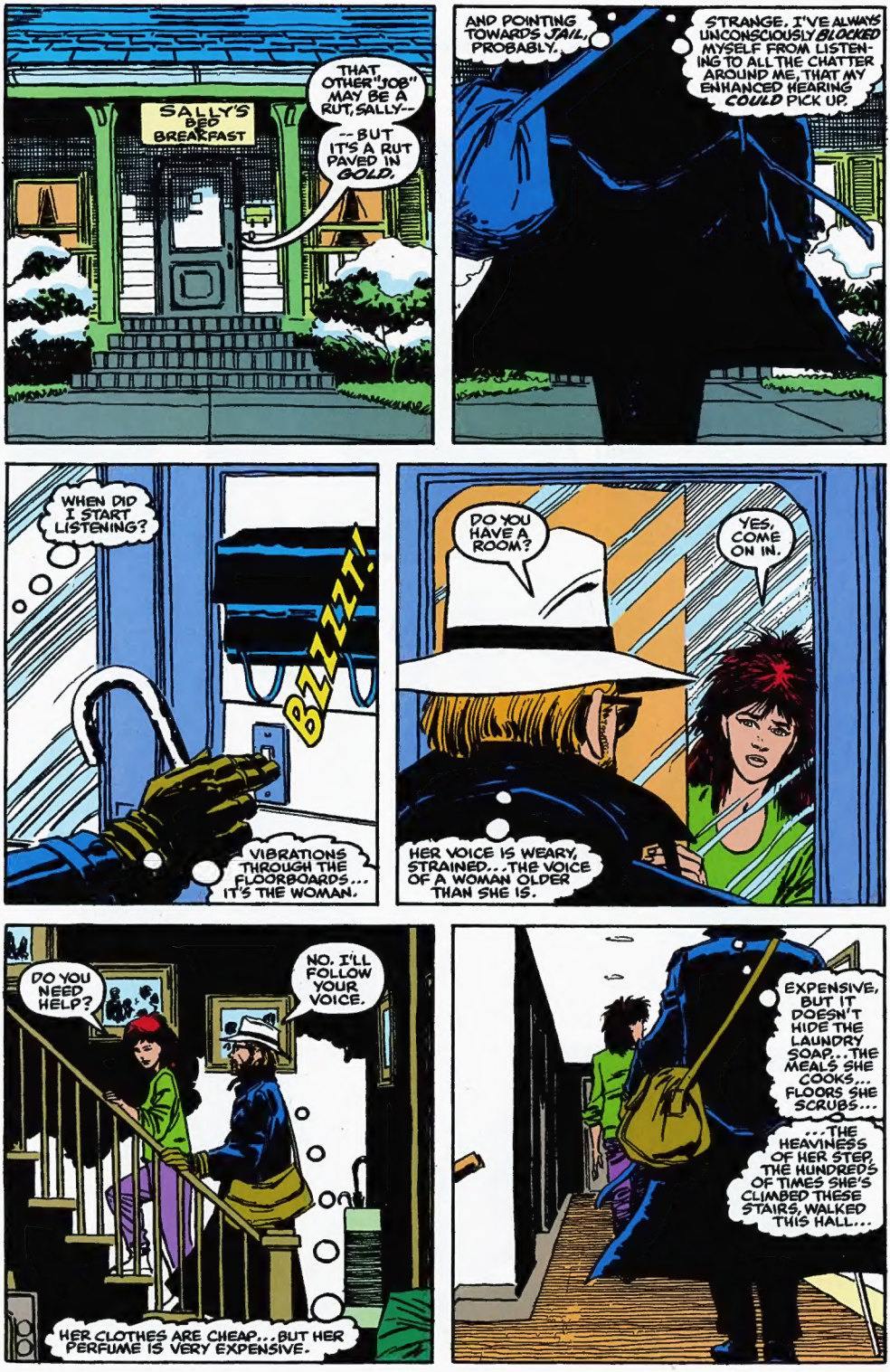
MARVEL
© 1989 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR®
75¢ US
95¢ CAN
268
JUL
02459
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
JR JR & AW

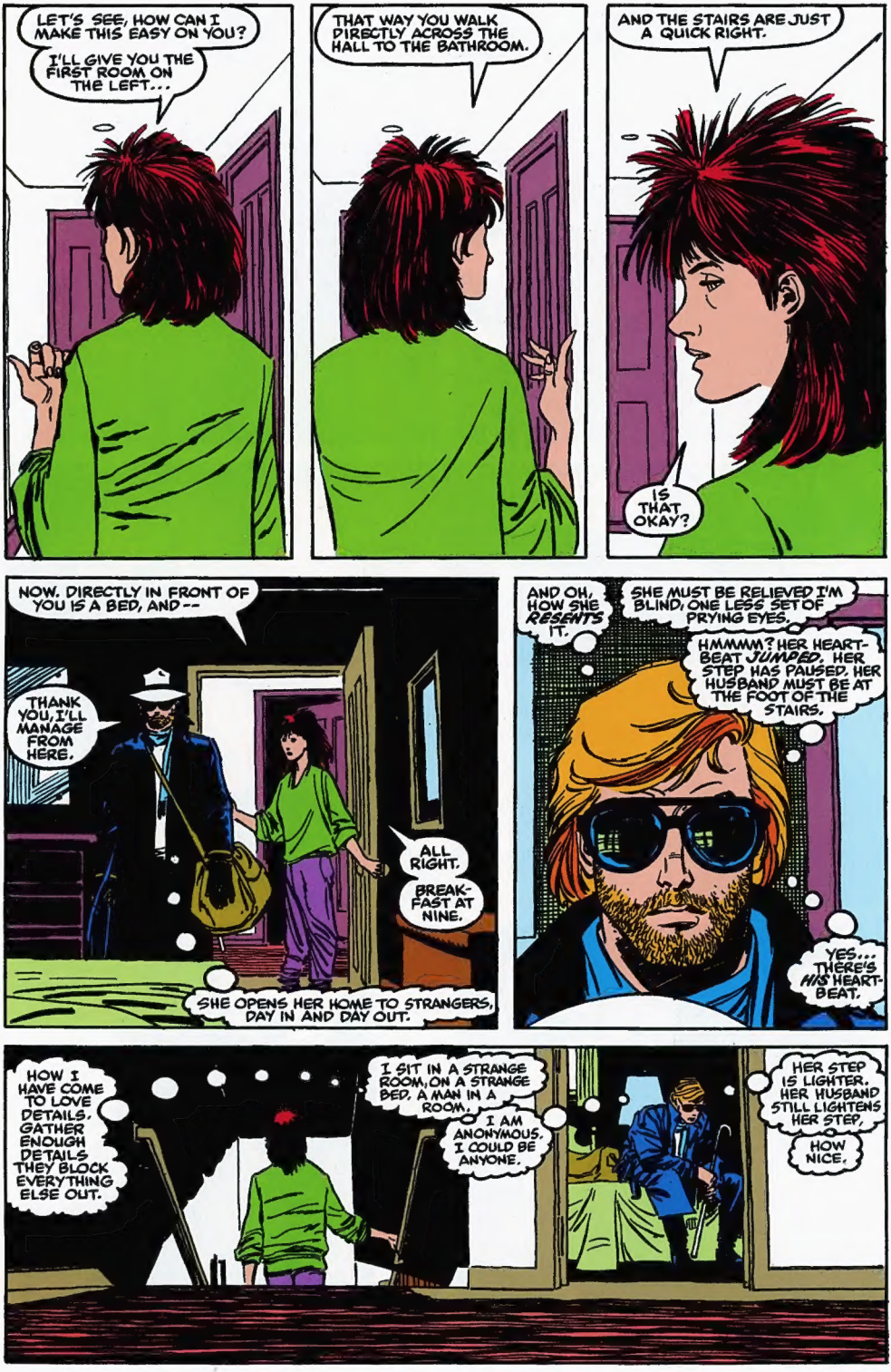
Stan Lee PRESENTS
GOLDEN RUT
YUP, GOTTA GO!
GOTTA CUT OFF THE LIMB, TO SAVE THE TREE!
NO, RAYMO, PLEASE...
by
ANN NOCENTI WRITER
JOHN ROMITA JR PENCILER
AL WILLIAMSON INKER
JOE ROSEN LETTERER
MAX SCHEELE COLORS
RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

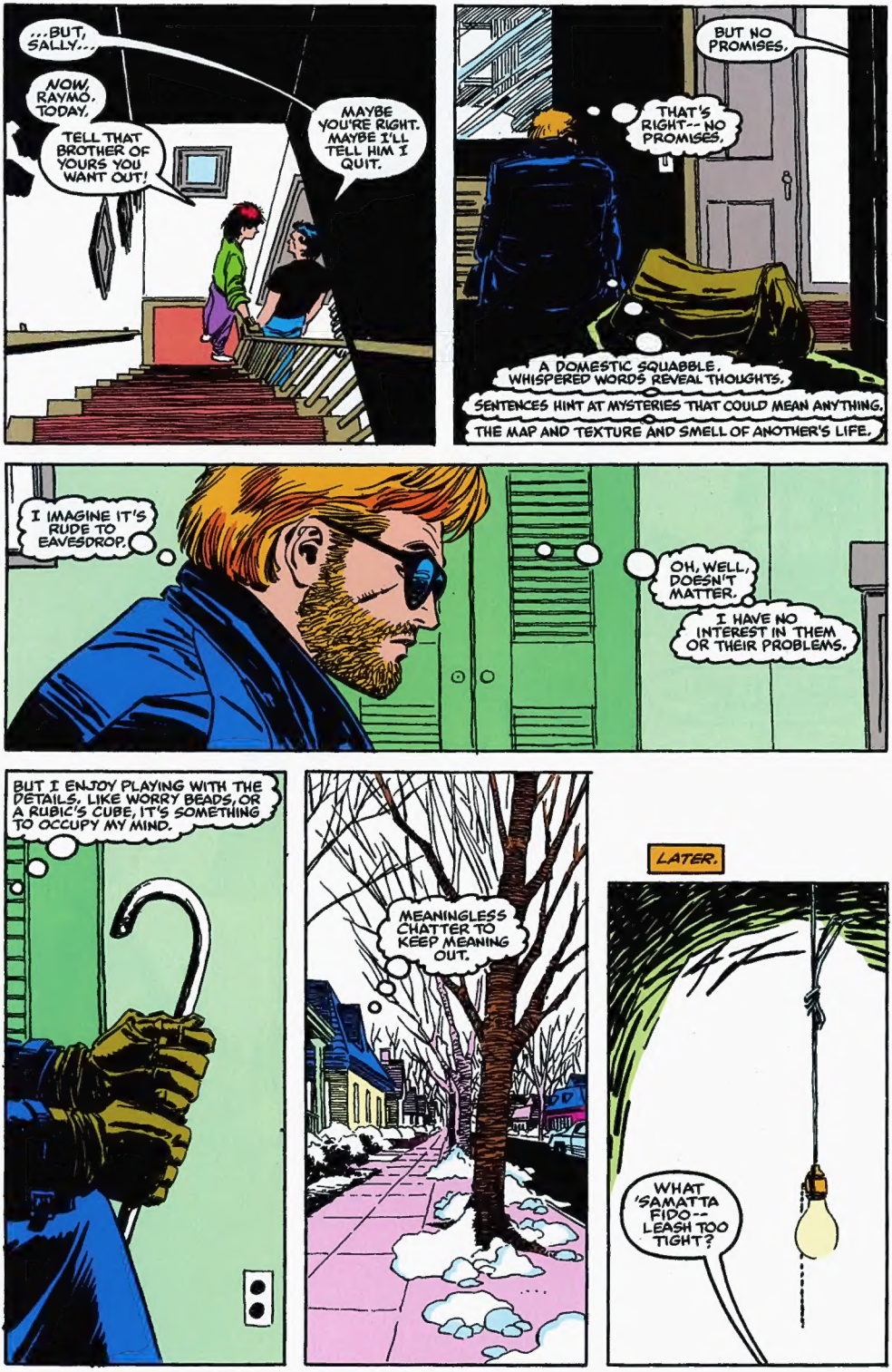

CLANG!
YELP!
NOW HOLD STILL, BILLY-- THAT LEG'S GOTTA GO!
YOU TRUST ME DON'T YOU, BILLY? IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
WHY!?
BECAUSE, I GOT THE AX. YOU'RE CHAINED UP.
I GOT THE POWER. YOU'RE HELPLESS.
NOW HOLD THAT BUM LEG STILL!
NO! PLEASE!
HERE IT COMES!
I TRUSTED YOU!

QUEENIE, NO!
LOOK OUT!
QUEENIE! NOT MY DOG!
HEY-- URGK!
DON'T FIGHT THE TRAINING, RAYMO! FINISH THE JOB!
FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!
YOU GOTTA SHOW BILLY SOME MUSCLE!
I CAN'T!
QUEENIE!
QUEENIE!

MY DOG!
I CAN'T SEE!
PITY--
--THE POOR DOG!
ANOTHER NIGHTMARE?
CAN'T SEE--BLOOD IN MY EYES...!
BLOOD? NO, HONEY--IT'S ONLY SWEAT!
RAYMO--YOU GOTTA QUIT--
--IT'S JUST NOT WORTH IT!
IT'S DRIVING YOU CRAZY!
JUST HANG IN A FEW MORE YEARS, AND WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BE SAFE.
WE'LL GET OUT OF THIS RUT WE'RE IN.
SAFE FROM WHAT?
THIS IS ALL JUST YOUR WARPED SENSE OF BEING A "MAN," A GOOD PROVIDER!
RENTING ROOMS HERE FEEDS US, WE'RE FINE. THAT OTHER--"JOB" OF YOURS IS WHAT'S GOT US IN A RUT!

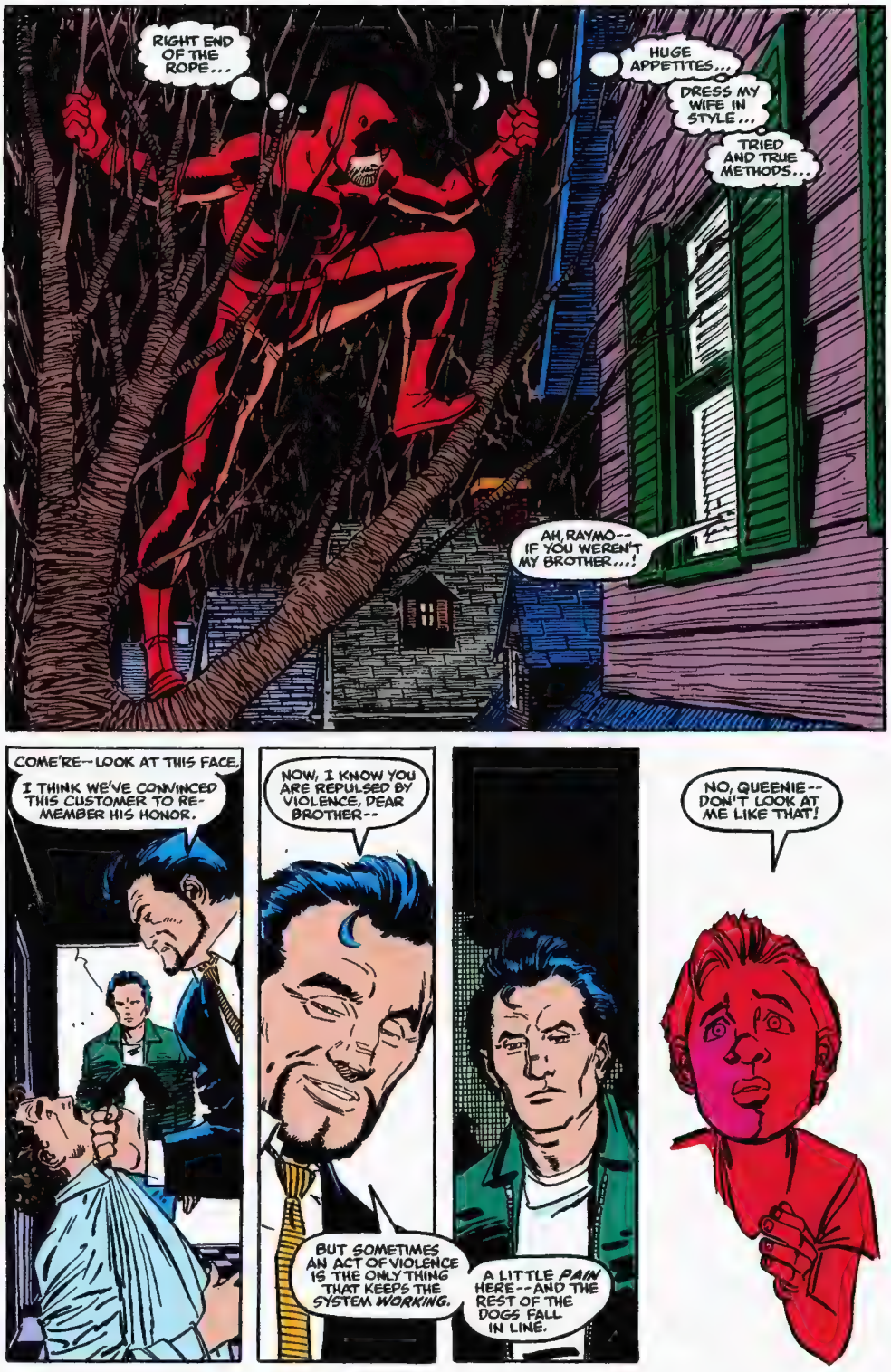

SALLY'S BED BREAKFAST
THAT OTHER "JOB" MAY BE A RUT, SALLY--
--BUT IT'S A RUT PAVED IN GOLD.
AND POINTING TOWARDS JAIL, PROBABLY.
STRANGE. I'VE ALWAYS UNCONSCIOUSLY BLOCKED MYSELF FROM LISTENING TO ALL THE CHATTER AROUND ME, THAT MY ENHANCED HEARING COULD PICK UP.
WHEN DID I START LISTENING?
BZZZT!
VIBRATIONS THROUGH THE FLOORBOARDS... IT'S THE WOMAN.
DO YOU HAVE A ROOM?
YES, COME ON IN.
HER VOICE IS WEARY, STRAINED... THE VOICE OF A WOMAN OLDER THAN SHE IS.
DO YOU NEED HELP?
NO. I'LL FOLLOW YOUR VOICE.
HER CLOTHES ARE CHEAP... BUT HER PERFUME IS VERY EXPENSIVE.
EXPENSIVE, BUT IT DOESN'T HIDE THE LAUNDRY SOAP... THE MEALS SHE COOKS... FLOORS SHE SCRUBS...
...THE HEAVINESS OF HER STEP, THE HUNDREDS OF TIMES SHE'S CLIMBED THESE STAIRS, WALKED THIS HALL...


LET'S SEE, HOW CAN I MAKE THIS EASY ON YOU?
I'LL GIVE YOU THE FIRST ROOM ON THE LEFT...
THAT WAY YOU WALK DIRECTLY ACROSS THE HALL TO THE BATHROOM.
AND THE STAIRS ARE JUST A QUICK RIGHT.
IS THAT OKAY?
NOW, DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU IS A BED, AND --
THANK YOU, I'LL MANAGE FROM HERE.
ALL RIGHT. BREAK-FAST AT NINE.
SHE OPENS HER HOME TO STRANGERS, DAY IN AND DAY OUT.
AND OH, HOW SHE RESENTS IT.
SHE MUST BE RELIEVED I'M BLIND, ONE LESS SET OF PRYING EYES.
HMMMM? HER HEART-BEAT JUMPED. HER STEP HAS PAUSED. HER HUSBAND MUST BE AT THE FOOT OF THE STAIRS.
YES... THERE'S HIS HEART-BEAT.
HOW I HAVE COME TO LOVE DETAILS. GATHER ENOUGH DETAILS THEY BLOCK EVERYTHING ELSE OUT.
I SIT IN A STRANGE ROOM, ON A STRANGE BED. A MAN IN A ROOM.
I AM ANONYMOUS. I COULD BE ANYONE.
HER STEP IS LIGHTER. HER HUSBAND STILL LIGHTENS HER STEP.
HOW NICE.

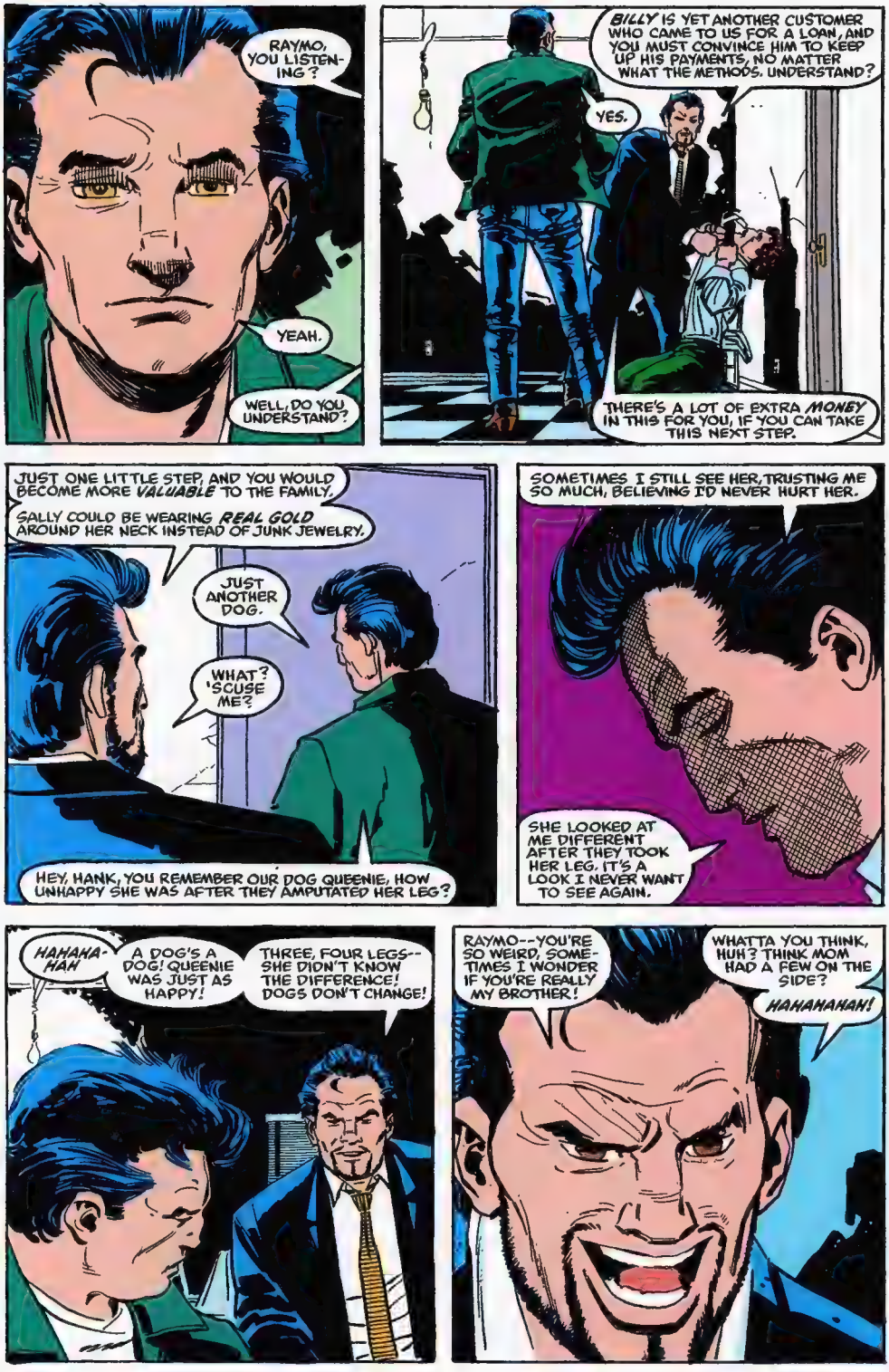

...BUT, SALLY...
NOW, RAYMO. TODAY.
TELL THAT BROTHER OF YOURS YOU WANT OUT!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE I'LL TELL HIM I QUIT.
BUT NO PROMISES.
THAT'S RIGHT-- NO PROMISES.
A DOMESTIC SQUABBLE. WHISPERED WORDS REVEAL THOUGHTS.
SENTENCES HINT AT MYSTERIES THAT COULD MEAN ANYTHING.
THE MAP AND TEXTURE AND SMELL OF ANOTHER'S LIFE.
I IMAGINE IT'S RUDE TO EAVESDROP.
OH, WELL, DOESN'T MATTER.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THEM OR THEIR PROBLEMS.
BUT I ENJOY PLAYING WITH THE DETAILS, LIKE WORRY BEADS, OR A RUBIC'S CUBE, IT'S SOMETHING TO OCCUPY MY MIND.
MEANINGLESS CHATTER TO KEEP MEANING OUT.
LATER.
WHAT 'SAMATTA FIDO-- LEASH TOO TIGHT?

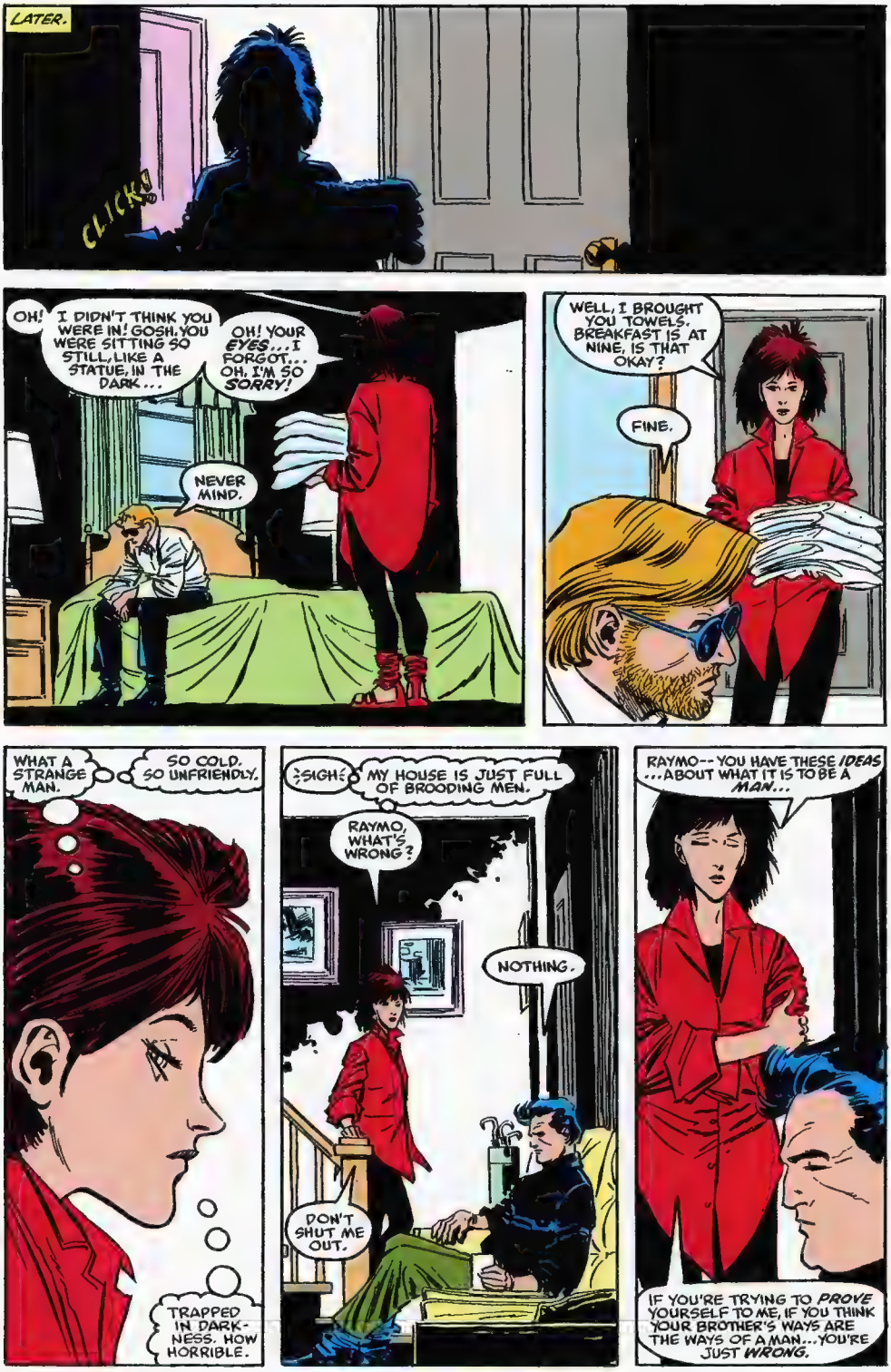
HANK, NO!
SHUT UP, YOU STUPID CUR.
YOU'RE ON THE WRONG END OF THE ROPE, BUDDY.
IN THIS WORLD, YOU GOTTA BE THE GUY HOLDING THE LEASH--
--NOT THE DOPE WITH THE ROPE AROUND YER NECK,
YOU SEE THIS, RAYMO?
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP TO UNDERSTAND.
THAT'S ALL POWER IS--
--MAKING SURE YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT END OF THE ROPE!
K'WAM!
SIT, FIDO!
STAY!
HAHAHAHAH!

HA! THAT'S YOUR BIGGEST PROBLEM-- YOU'RE NEVER HUNGRY ENOUGH!
AH, NOW I'M GOOD AND HUNGRY.
COME ON, RAYMO-- LET'S EAT!
I'M NOT VERY HUNGRY, HANK.
LEARN FROM ME, RAYMO!
I LIVE WELL, MY BROTHER.
I HAVE HUGE APPETITES, ENJOY FINE THINGS.
I AM A MAN OF GOOD HUMOR, I GIVE TO CHARITIES, SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY, DRESS MY WIFE IN STYLE.
I BELIEVE IN HONOR, AND COMMITMENT.
THAT DOG ON THE FLOOR TOOK OUT A LOAN FROM ME, AND BROKE HIS PROMISE TO PAY.
YOUR JOB WAS TO COLLECT.
RAYMO--IN TWO WEEKS YOU COULDN'T GET A DIME FROM HIM.
BELIEVE ME, AFTER TONIGHT HE'LL SELL HIS KIDS TO PAY US!
IF YOU CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO USE TRIED AND TRUE METHODS, ALL OUR LOAN CUSTOMERS WILL DEFAULT--
--AND THE FAMILY BANK WILL COLLAPSE.

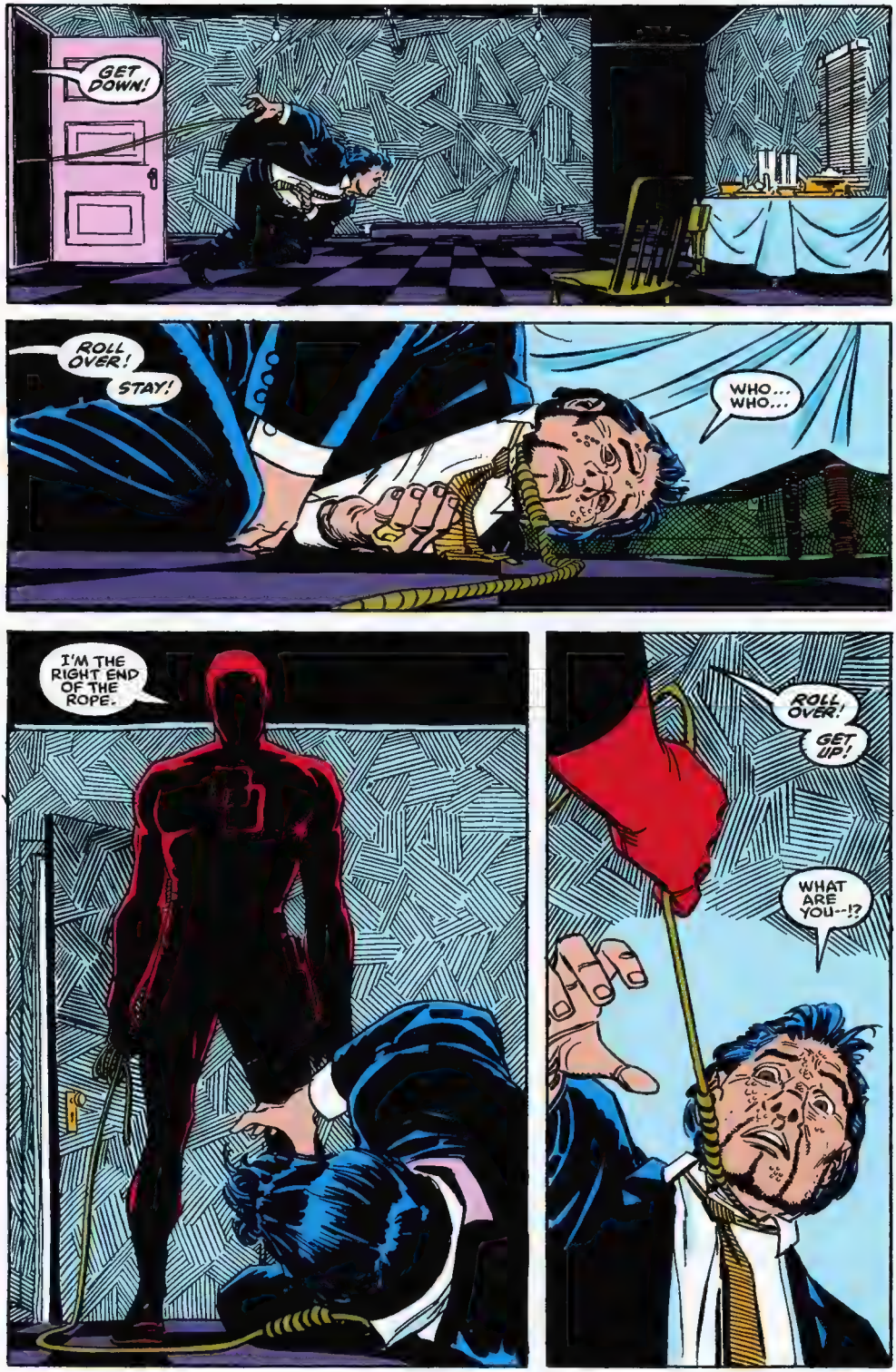

RIGHT END OF THE ROPE...
HUGE APPETITES...
DRESS MY WIFE IN STYLE...
TRIED AND TRUE METHODS...
AH, RAYMO-- IF YOU WEREN'T MY BROTHER...!
COME'RE--LOOK AT THIS FACE.
I THINK WE'VE CONVINCED THIS CUSTOMER TO REMEMBER HIS HONOR.
NOW, I KNOW YOU ARE REPULSED BY VIOLENCE, DEAR BROTHER--
BUT SOMETIMES AN ACT OF VIOLENCE IS THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS THE SYSTEM WORKING.
A LITTLE PAIN HERE--AND THE REST OF THE DOGS FALL IN LINE.
NO, QUEENIE-- DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!

I WON'T LET THEM DO IT TO YOU, QUEENIE!
RAYMO! IT'S TIME...
NO! DOCTOR, I CAN'T--
NOW, RAYMO, SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO SACRIFICE A PART TO SAVE THE WHOLE.
THE LEG IS BAD, WE HAVE TO CUT IT OFF TO SAVE QUEENIE.
COME HERE, QUEENIE.
NO! QUEENIE WOULD RATHER BE DEAD!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? QUEENIE TRUSTS ME!

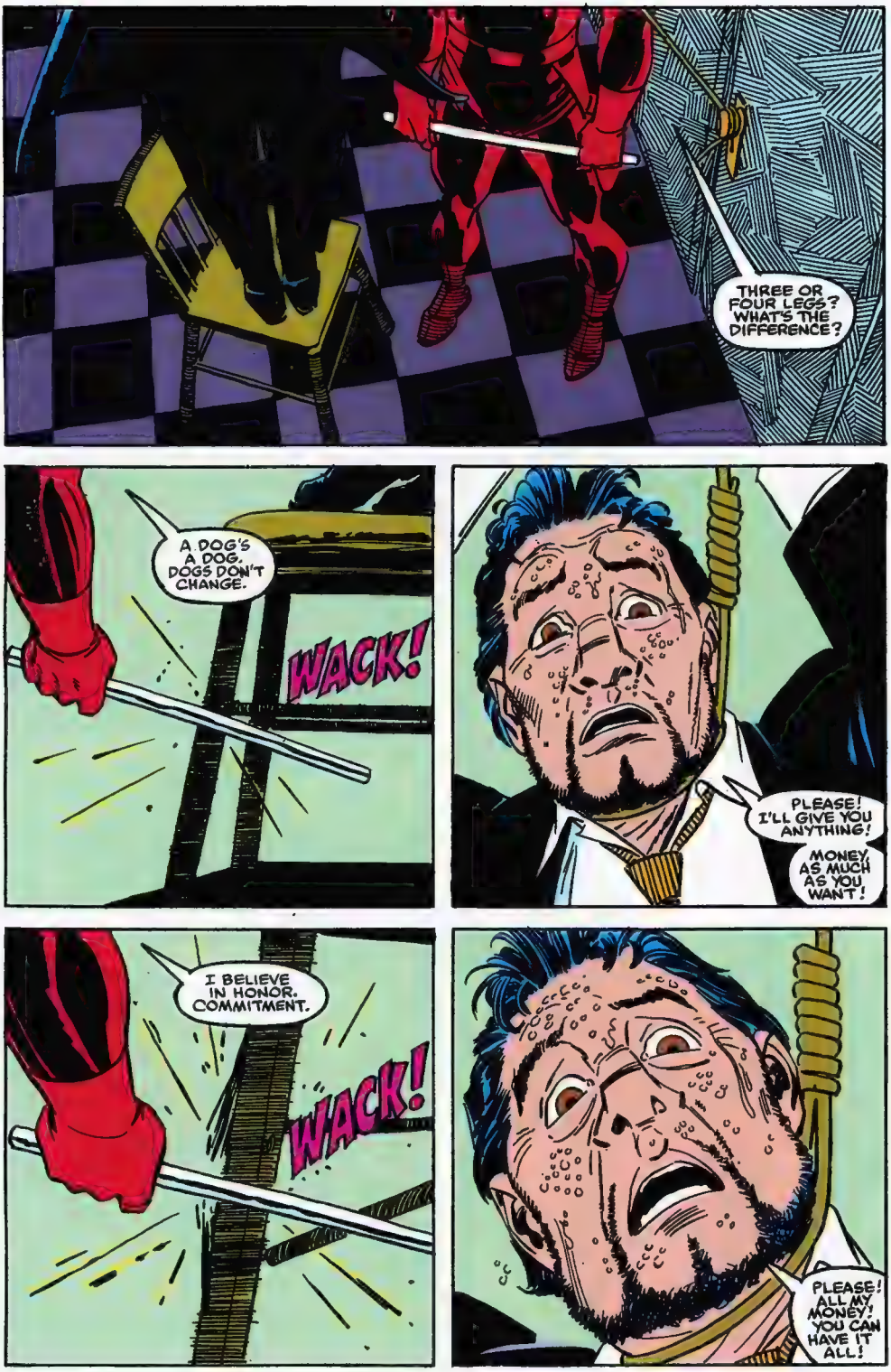

RAYMO, YOU LISTENING?
YEAH.
WELL, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
BILLY IS YET ANOTHER CUSTOMER WHO CAME TO US FOR A LOAN, AND YOU MUST CONVINCE HIM TO KEEP UP HIS PAYMENTS, NO MATTER WHAT THE METHODS. UNDERSTAND?
YES.
THERE'S A LOT OF EXTRA MONEY IN THIS FOR YOU, IF YOU CAN TAKE THIS NEXT STEP.
JUST ONE LITTLE STEP, AND YOU WOULD BECOME MORE VALUABLE TO THE FAMILY.
SALLY COULD BE WEARING REAL GOLD AROUND HER NECK INSTEAD OF JUNK JEWELRY.
JUST ANOTHER DOG.
WHAT? 'SCUSE ME?
HEY, HANK, YOU REMEMBER OUR DOG QUEENIE, HOW UNHAPPY SHE WAS AFTER THEY AMPUTATED HER LEG?
SOMETIMES I STILL SEE HER, TRUSTING ME SO MUCH, BELIEVING I'D NEVER HURT HER.
SHE LOOKED AT ME DIFFERENT AFTER THEY TOOK HER LEG. IT'S A LOOK I NEVER WANT TO SEE AGAIN.
HAHAHA-HAH
A DOG'S A DOG! QUEENIE WAS JUST AS HAPPY!
THREE, FOUR LEGS--SHE DIDN'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE! DOGS DON'T CHANGE!
RAYMO--YOU'RE SO WEIRD, SOMETIMES I WONDER IF YOU'RE REALLY MY BROTHER!
WHATTA YOU THINK, HUH? THINK MOM HAD A FEW ON THE SIDE?
HAHAHAHAH!


LATER.
CLICK!
OH! I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE IN! GOSH, YOU WERE SITTING SO STILL, LIKE A STATUE, IN THE DARK...
OH! YOUR EYES... I FORGOT... OH, I'M SO SORRY!
NEVER MIND.
WELL, I BROUGHT YOU TOWELS. BREAKFAST IS AT NINE, IS THAT OKAY?
FINE.
WHAT A STRANGE MAN.
SO COLD. SO UNFRIENDLY.
TRAPPED IN DARKNESS. HOW HORRIBLE.
SIGH
MY HOUSE IS JUST FULL OF BROODING MEN.
RAYMO, WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING.
DON'T SHUT ME OUT.
RAYMO-- YOU HAVE THESE IDEAS ...ABOUT WHAT IT IS TO BE A MAN...
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO PROVE YOURSELF TO ME, IF YOU THINK YOUR BROTHER'S WAYS ARE THE WAYS OF A MAN... YOU'RE JUST WRONG.

YOU'LL PROVE TO ME THAT YOU'RE...THE OPPOSITE.
RAYMO?
OKAY, DARLING. I'LL LET UP.
I TRUST YOU.
MY GOD, THE WAY LIFE SHAPES PEOPLE.
LEAVES THEM SITTING IN THE DARK... TORTURED, BROODING...
...PARALYZED.
LATER STILL.
NO! ÷GKAK!÷
MY GOD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU'LL CHOKE ME TO DEATH!
STOP!
HEY! ÷KGAGK!÷
PLEASE, STOP!
GOD, NO!
WHO ARE YOU?!
POWER.
THAT'S ALL POWER IS, BEING ON THE RIGHT END OF THE ROPE.
OH, GOD...


GET DOWN!
ROLL OVER!
STAY!
WHO... WHO...
I'M THE RIGHT END OF THE ROPE.
ROLL OVER!
GET UP!
WHAT ARE YOU--!?

EAT!
WAM!
I'M A MAN OF BIG APPETITES.
I LIKE FINE THINGS.
I GIVE TO CHARITIES, I AM A MAN OF GREAT HUMOR, I DRAPE MY WIFE IN GOLD.
NO, WHY?!
WHO ARE YOU!?
FOR GOD'S SAKE, WHO ARE YOU?!

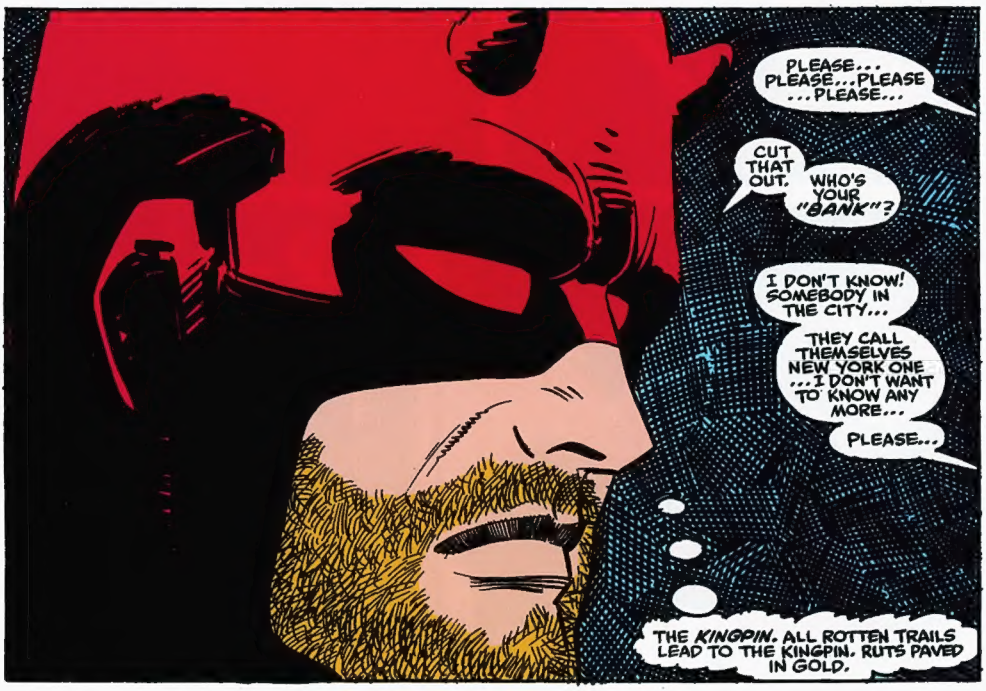

THREE OR FOUR LEGS? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
A DOG'S A DOG. DOGS DON'T CHANGE.
WACK!
PLEASE! I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING!
MONEY, AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!
I BELIEVE IN HONOR. COMMITMENT.
WACK!
PLEASE! ALL MY MONEY! YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL!

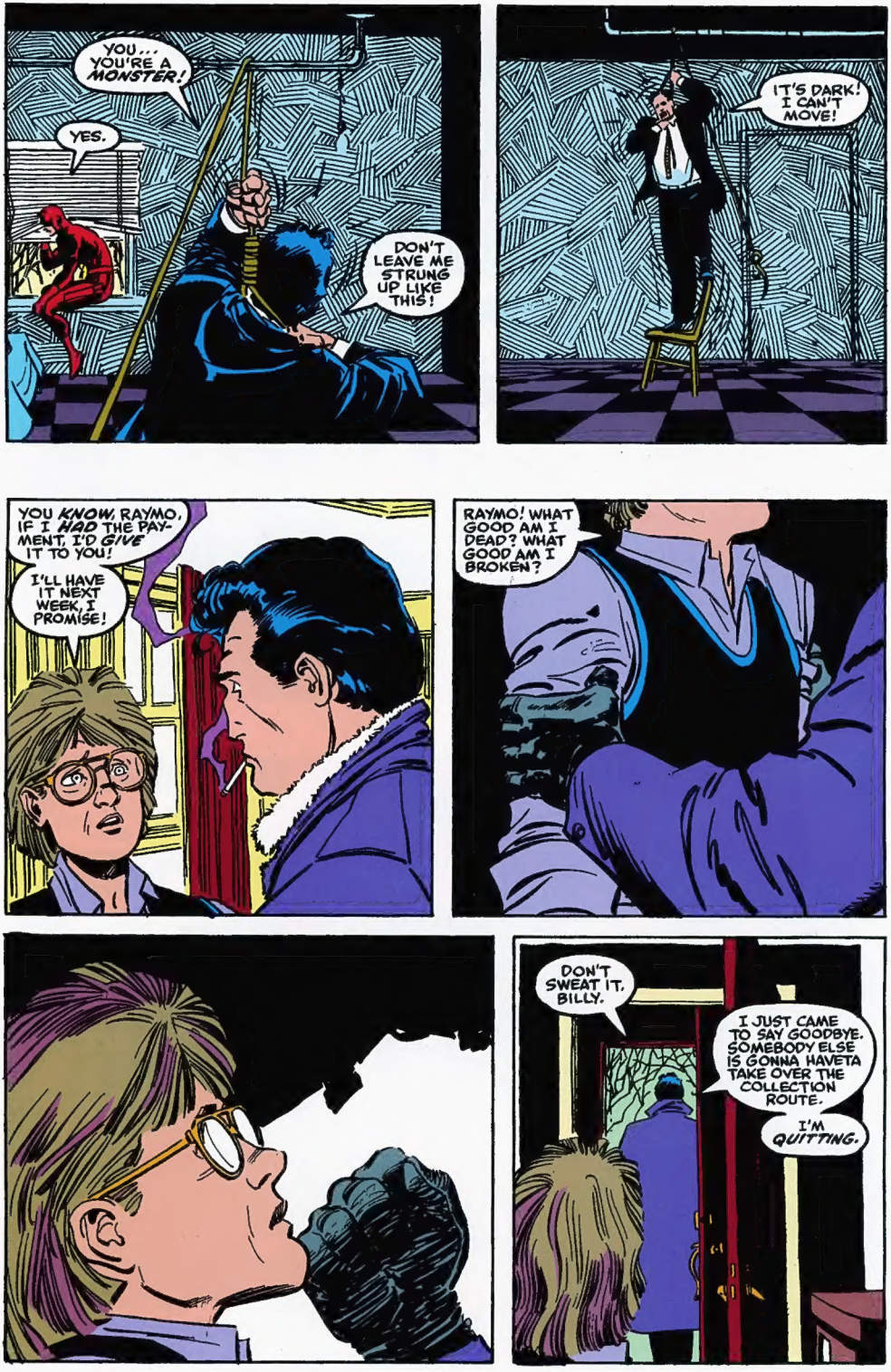
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?
AN ACT OF VIOLENCE KEEPS THE SYSTEM GOING.
CUT OFF A BAD LEG TO SAVE THE BODY!
SWAK!
KILL ME!
JUST GET IT OVER WITH!
FINE.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST STEP OFF THE CHAIR?
GO AHEAD. DO IT. TAKE ONE STEP.
THIS NEXT STEP, LOTTA MONEY IN IT.

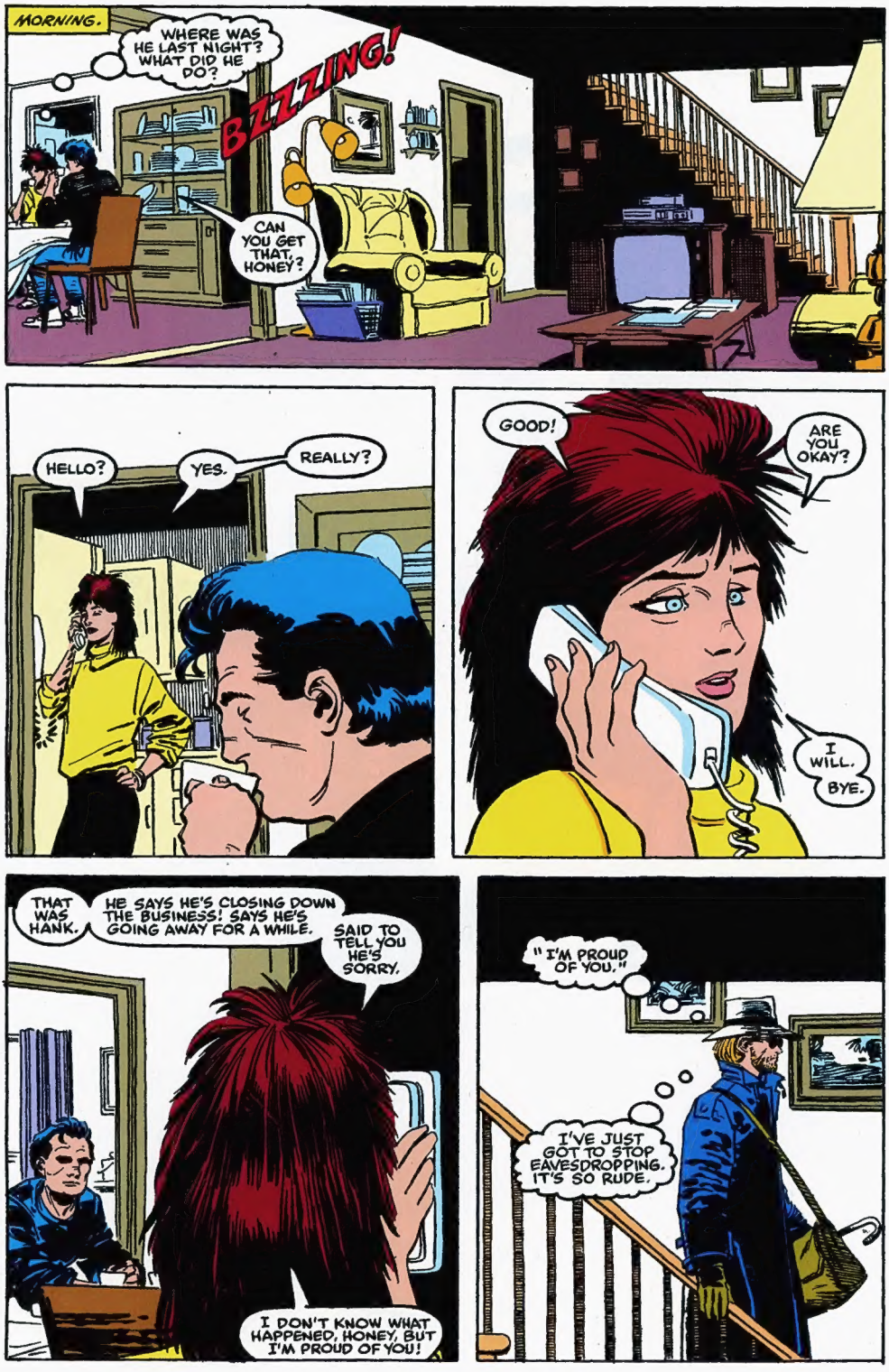
RAYMO! WHATCHA DOIN' HERE?
FRIENDLY VISIT. AREN'T YOU GOING TO INVITE ME IN?

SURE, SURE!
COME ON IN, RAYMO. YOU WANT A DRINK?
TAKE OFF YOUR COAT, AND YOUR...
IT'S A WARM NIGHT, RAYMO, WHY ARE YOU WEARING BLACK GLOVES ...HAHAHA.
HAHAHA. UH...WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF THE GLOVES, RAYMO?

NO. I'LL BE NEEDING THEM.


PLEASE... PLEASE...PLEASE ...PLEASE...
CUT THAT OUT.
WHO'S YOUR "BANK"?
I DON'T KNOW! SOMEBODY IN THE CITY...
THEY CALL THEMSELVES NEW YORK ONE ...I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANY MORE...
PLEASE...
THE KINGPIN. ALL ROTTEN TRAILS LEAD TO THE KINGPIN. RUTS PAVED IN GOLD.

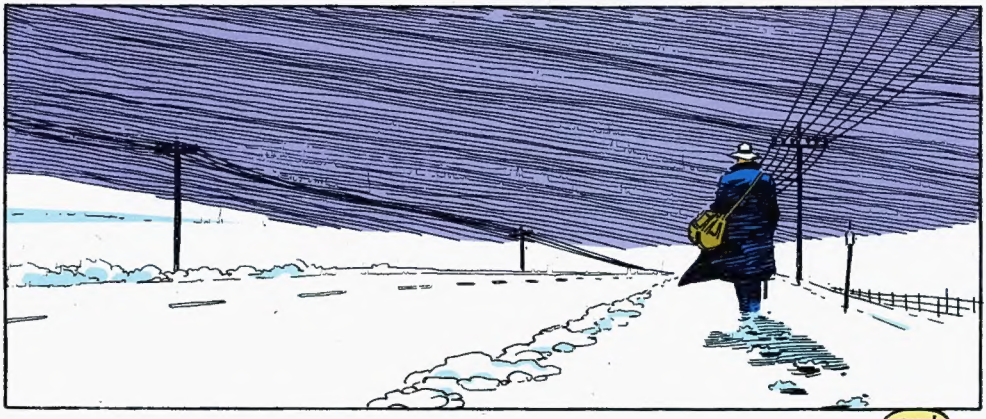

YOU... YOU'RE A MONSTER!
YES.
DON'T LEAVE ME STRUNG UP LIKE THIS!
IT'S DARK! I CAN'T MOVE!
YOU KNOW, RAYMO, IF I HAD THE PAYMENT, I'D GIVE IT TO YOU!
I'LL HAVE IT NEXT WEEK, I PROMISE!
RAYMO! WHAT GOOD AM I DEAD? WHAT GOOD AM I BROKEN?
DON'T SWEAT IT, BILLY.
I JUST CAME TO SAY GOODBYE. SOMEBODY ELSE IS GONNA HAVETA TAKE OVER THE COLLECTION ROUTE.
I'M QUITTING.


MORNING.
WHERE WAS HE LAST NIGHT? WHAT DID HE DO?
BZZZLING!
CAN YOU GET THAT, HONEY?
HELLO?
YES.
REALLY?
GOOD!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I WILL. BYE.
THAT WAS HANK.
HE SAYS HE'S CLOSING DOWN THE BUSINESS! SAYS HE'S GOING AWAY FOR A WHILE.
SAID TO TELL YOU HE'S SORRY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, HONEY, BUT I'M PROUD OF YOU!
"I'M PROUD OF YOU."
I'VE JUST GOT TO STOP EAVESDROPPING. IT'S SO RUDE.

THANKS.
DON'T YOU WANT BREAKFAST?
NO.

≥HUMPH≤
YOU KNOW-- SOMETIMES IT'S SO ODD, RUNNING THIS PLACE.
STRANGERS COME AND GO, IN AND OUT OF YOUR HOME. LIVE WITH YOU, EAT WITH YOU.
YET YOUR LIVES BARELY TOUCH.
YEAH, BUT IT AIN'T SO ODD...

"LIVES BARELY TOUCH..."
SALLY'S BED



end